



THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Laura Andrews, (216) 707-2265, landrews@clevelandart.org



Hilary Hahn + Josh Ritter

CMA's VIVA! & Gala Around Town Presents Violinist Hilary Hahn and Singer-songwriter Josh Ritter

"America's best." – Time Magazine

CLEVELAND (March 21, 2008)—The Cleveland Museum of Art's (CMA) acclaimed **VIVA! & Gala Around Town** concert series welcomes Grammy® Award-winning violinist **Hilary Hahn** and singer/songwriter **Josh Ritter** on April 11, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. to Kulas Hall in the Cleveland Institute of Music (CIM).

This unprecedented collaboration is both engrossing and intellectually fascinating. **Hilary Hahn** is one of the most compelling artists on the international concert circuit and **Josh Ritter's** exceptional talents have been championed by critics and fellow artists alike. In a program of mostly solo works, Hahn's performance includes some of the most memorable works from the solo violin repertoire; Ritter's consists of his beautifully crafted songs.

Hilary Hahn, celebrated for her innovative interpretations and thoughtful musicianship with a sophistication well beyond her 28 years, appears regularly with the world's leading orchestras throughout Europe, Asia and North America. Hahn has released four albums in the last five years comprising the works of Bach, Elgar, Vaughan Williams, Mozart, Paganini and Spohr. All have received critical acclaim and spent weeks on the Billboard Top Ten list. Her most recent recording was a collaboration with the Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra and maestro Eiji Oue, pairing Paganini's Concerto No. 1 and Spohr's Concerto No. 8.

--more--

Hahn has received numerous distinctions throughout her career, including a Grammy®, several Echo awards and being named “America’s Best Young Classical Musician” in 2001 by *Time Magazine*. Hahn’s upcoming projects include concert collaborations with mandolinist Chris Thile, a commissioned concerto by Jennifer Higdon, and a collection of contemporary encore pieces by living composers.

Associated with the likes of Bob Dylan and Bruce Springsteen, Idaho native **Josh Ritter** employs a mix of folk ballads, backed by drums, bass, organ, cacophony, piano, guitar and more, arriving at a rollicking chorus of exuberance and imagery. Assuring there’s a method to his madness, Ritter meticulously crafts his sound with a quick-witted, talented and versatile spirit.

Ritter, launching his career in DIY-fashion, released his self-titled 1999 debut and 2001 follow-up, *The Golden Age of Radio*, on his own before signing with an Indie label. In his fourth and most recent album in 2007, *The Historical Conquest of Josh Ritter*, Ritter holds nothing back from his audience resulting in a raucous, dizzying affair with pounding keyboards, strings and horns. Citing Paul McCartney’s *Ram* and Buddy Holly’s *The Apartment Tapes* as inspiration, the album has been met with critical acclaim. *Historical Conquests* is described by *The Boston Globe* as Ritter’s “most intensely political, deeply personal, and darkly ambitious disc yet.” *Paste Magazine* named him one of the “100 Best Living Songwriters” and author Stephen King named it his #1 album of 2006 stating, “this is the most exuberant outburst of imagery since Bob Dylan’s *A Hard Rain’s A-Gonna Fall*.”

Admission to the performance is \$42; \$40 for CMA members. Special group and student rates are available. To purchase tickets call the CMA Ticket Center at 1-888-CMA-0033 or on online at www.clevelandart.org/tickets. Hilary Hahn and Josh Ritter perform at Kulas Hall in the Cleveland Institute of Music (CIM) located at 11021 East Boulevard in Cleveland. Free parking is available after 4:00 p.m. in the University Circle Parking Lot 43 and behind the CIM Annex on Hazel Drive.

VIVA! & Gala Around Town

The next performance in the **VIVA! & Gala Around Town** series will be **Sufi Devotional Music: The Qawwals of Pakistan** on April 17, 2008 in the Murch Auditorium at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. With just two instruments, a handful of voices, and a complex undercurrent of synchronized hand-clapping, the Mehr Ali and Sher Ali *qawwali* ensemble produces some of the most jubilant music you are likely to hear. The use of Sufi lyrics in praise of divine and human love adds a mysterious beauty to the singing. This vocal tradition was widely popularized by Nusrat Fateh Ali Kahn through his concerts and collaborations with the likes of Peter Gabriel.

The Ohio Arts Council helped fund this program with state tax dollars to encourage economic growth, educational excellence and cultural enrichment for all Ohioans. The programs are also made possible by The Ernest L. and Louise M. Gartner Fund, The P. J. McMyler Musical Endowment Fund, The Anton and Rose Zverina Music Fund, The Musart Society and Margaret W. Wong & Associates, Co., LPA.

* * *

The Cleveland Museum of Art

The Cleveland Museum of Art is one of America's leading comprehensive art museums. Its permanent collection is world renowned for its quality and breadth, spanning 6,000 years. The museum is a significant international forum for exhibitions, scholarships and art acquisitions. The Cleveland Museum of Art receives operating support from the Ohio Arts Council through state tax dollars to encourage economic growth, educational excellence and cultural enrichment for all Ohioans. The Cleveland Museum of Art is generously funded by Cuyahoga County residents through Cuyahoga Arts and Culture. For more information on the museum, its holdings, programs, services and events, call 1-888-CMA-0033 or visit www.ClevelandArt.org.

#

Hilary Hahn Photo credit: © Mathias Bothor (courtesy of Deutsche Grammophon)

Josh Ritter Photo courtesy IMG Artists